

2010

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
JAN-FEB 2010**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

A Happy and Joyful New Year to you all!

It is, with this issue, that I announce that I shall be 'stepping-aside' as Chairman of the Sathya Sai Organisation, Ireland, on Monday the 1st March.

I have - apart from a few short years - Chaired this Organisation since I founded it way back in 1990. It has been a 'roller coaster' journey, and a challenging one, but I have enjoyed the 'ride' very much!

I am now 78 years old, (with the emphasis on the 'old!') and I wish to find time to concentrate more on my own spiritual development, and allow the recently appointed deputy, Jagan, to now add his imprint on the Organisation. Equally, I shall continue editing and producing the 'Sathya Sai Newsletter' on behalf of all its subscribers. I have enjoyed doing it over the years, as my own personal Seva, and I hope, indeed, that you have liked reading it, and will continue to do so. It goes without saying, that anyone who wishes to contribute to its pages, would be most welcome.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who answered my appeal for donations to the Haiti Relief Fund. Your response was much appreciated, and these have now been sent, as a dollar draft, to Dr. Goldstein's 'Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation', in the US.

Sai Blessing, and Sai Ram.

Patrick Gallivan.

Politics is the cause of all the conflicts that we see today everywhere. Politics has affected not only the general public but also the police, the army and the entire administration. How many people are getting killed because of politics! Therefore, do not put your faith in politics and do not follow politics. - BABA.

Christmas Day, 1981 Sai Baba said...

"Love must be manifest as Service, Seva. Seva must take the form of food for the hungry, solace for the forlorn, consolation for the sick and the suffering. Jesus wore himself out in such Seva".

"The heart full of Compassion is the temple of God. Jesus pleaded for Compassion. Compassion was His message. He was sorely distressed at the sight of the poor".

"This day... Jesus is worshipped but His teachings are neglected. Sai is being worshipped but His teachings are neglected. Everywhere, pomp, pageantry, hollow exhibitionism! Lectures, Lectures! No activity, no love, no Seva. Heroes while lecturing, zeros while putting what is said into practice".

"Jesus was Compassion. Compassion came in human form. He spread the spirit of Compassion and conferred solace on the distressed and suffering. Noticing the torture of birds and beasts at the Temple in Jerusalem, he reprimanded the vendors and drove them out of the precincts. He drew

upon Himself the anger of the priests. Good works always provoke the wicked. But one should not falter or fear when opposition obstructs. The challenge gives joy; it evokes hidden sources of strength; it brings down Grace to reinforce the effect”.

“Develop Compassion. Live in Love. Be Good; Do Good and see Good.”

I would have given a protective talisman to a devotee and that individual would have worn it either in his neck, or somewhere on his body. You do not have to constantly think of Swami. He will be with you and looking after you, even if you do not have such a protective talisman on your body. My grace is always available to all people. The purpose of this talisman however, is that if the individual wearing it is in some danger or difficulty, then the talisman will immediately bring to Me in a flash the news and goes back with my grace to you. This is the function which the talisman that I give performs. It constitutes a kind of link between the wearer and Me in times of danger. - BABA.

“The Land of Bharat”

Friedrich Max Muller (1823-1900), was a German philologist and Orientalist, and was also one of the founders of the western academic field of ‘Indian Studies’. (Swami referred to him as ‘Moksha Mulla’)

Muller once wrote; “If I were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed

with all the wealth, power, and beauty that nature can bestow in some part a very paradise on earth - I should point to India. If I were to ask under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its most choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant - I should point to India. And if I were to ask myself from what literature we, here in Europe, we who have nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of Greeks and Romans and one of the Semetic race, the Jewish, may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human, a life, not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life, again I should point to India.”

It is said that, “The world is a projection of the mind.” Our Vak (speech) represents Shiva. We need not go anywhere in search of Gods, to a distant place. God is in us, with us, above us, below us and around us. In fact you are God. Your mind alone is responsible for your joy or sorrow. We think sorrow is thrust on us by someone from outside. No! All these experiences flow from you only. You are responsible for everything. If you identify yourself with the world and think, ‘I am so-and-so’, you will remain separate from God. On the other hand, if you realise that all experiences emanate from your mind, and that you are God, you will become God!

Questions & Answers with Baba by Eruch B. Fanibunda - 1976

Q. What is the correct relationship Swamiji, which exists between God and a devotee?

A. *'I am yours,' can only be said from the devotee. 'I am yours God,' says the devotee and what does God say? 'You are mine'. God does not say, 'I am yours.'*

Q. Sometimes one gets a feeling that one is very close to God, and at other times one feels that God has moved very far away. Would Swami please explain the reasons for those feelings?

A. *Jealousy and anger are responsible for these feelings. If these are controlled, then one is in a position to control the Supreme Spirit (Paramatma). That is, Swami comes near, otherwise He appears far from you. Sometimes the boys (referring here to His college boys) do not understand as to why Swami appears to be angry with them. They have to realise that their thoughts, which Swami knows, are responsible for Swami's reaction.*

Om Sai Ram.

The Divine Prescription

Capt. Jagdish Oberoi, a Sai devotee for many years, retired as General Manager, Commercial, Indian Airlines, to settle down in P.N.. Swami gave him the opportunity to serve as the Aerodrome Officer in the Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Puttaparthi, for many years.

On one occasion, Oberoi joined Swami on a flight from Bangalore to

Hyderabad and described what happened. "Swami called me to sit beside Him, and asked me how my health was and I replied, 'Swami is Antaryami and He knows my problem.' I said with tears in my eyes. Swami wiped my tears and said, 'I know, but I want you to tell Me. It will lighten your burden when you talk about it.'

"I told Him the ENT specialist had diagnosed me ailment as throat cancer. Swami called for a glass of drinking water, then materialised a blackish powder, stirring it with a spoon into the glass, and gave it to drink it. It tastes bitter but I drank it. He then rubbed the remainder of the powder on His fingertips and on to my throat. It was very soothing. The pain disappeared immediately and the hitherto uncontrollable cough was almost gone!

Swami asked me to consult a specialist in Madras and get a second opinion. I pleaded that since I was now feeling better, I didn't need to go through another painful physical examination. But, Swami insisted, saying, "Listen to the command of your Swami and seek a second opinion."

Oberoi went to Madras for the consultation, and was confirmed that there was no trace of throat cancer - Swami has already cancelled it!

Every moment marks the Lord's advent, because human beings are being born continually. Every human being in an incarnation of the Divine. The Divine dwells in every being. Therefore, dedicate every moment to the thoughts of God. When you do this, in due

course you experience the Divine. You will be free from delusion and you will be divinised. Man is born to merge in the Grace of the Divine and not to immerse himself in mundane pleasures. - BABA.

The Old Phone

My father had one of the first telephones in our neighbourhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung at the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was 'Information Please' and there was nothing she did not know. 'Information Please' could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

One day while my mother was visiting a neighbour, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger. The phone! Quickly, I ran for a footstool in the parlour and dragged it to the landing, and climbed up, unhooked the receiver and held it to my ear. 'Information, please' I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear: 'Information.'

'I hurt my finger...' I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily now that I had an audience. 'Isn't your mother home?' came the question. 'Nobody home but me' I blubbered. 'Are you bleeding?' the voice asked.

'No,' I replied. 'I hurt my finger with a hammer and it hurts.'

'Can you open the icebox?' she asked. I said I could. 'Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger,' said the voice.

After that, I called 'Information Please' for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my maths. She told me my pet chipmunk, that I caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts. And when Petey, our pet canary died, I called and told her the sad story. 'Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of the cage?' She sensed my deep concern, for she said, 'Wayne, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in.'

Somehow I felt better.

Another day I phoned and asked the now familiar voice 'How do I spell fix?'

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. 'Information Please' belonged in that old wooden box at home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new 'phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding,

and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

Years later, on my way to west to college, my plane put down in Seattle, I had a half-hour between planes. I spent 15 minutes on the 'phone to my sister, who lived there now. Later, without thinking, I dialled my hometown Operator and said, 'Information Please'. Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice so well, 'Information'.

I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, 'Could you please tell me how to spell fix?' There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, 'I guess your finger must have healed by now.' I laughed, 'So its really you.' I said, 'I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?'

'I wonder,' she said, 'if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls.' I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back from my visit to my sister. 'Please do', she said. 'Just ask for Sally.'

Three months passed and I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered, 'Information'. I asked for Sally.

'Are you a friend?'

'Yes, a very old friend,' I answered.

'I'm sorry to have to tell you this,' she said. 'Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago.' Before I could hang up she said, 'Wait a minute, did you say

your name was Wayne?' 'Yes.' I answered.

'Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you.' The note read, 'Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean.'

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant. Never underestimate the impression you make on others. Whose life have you touched today?

Life is a journey... NOT a guided tour. So don't miss the ride and have a great time. You don't get a second shot at it.

(Hope you liked that story. Pass it on. Ed.)

Education is for life, not for earning a living, remember.
- BABA.

A Wonderful Divine Experience

Mr. T. Narayana Reddy (65) settled in Puttaparthi after serving a lifetime in the Indian Air Force. He decided to spend the rest of his life in service to Swami, and was also to witness many Sai miracles.

One of my well-wishers gave me a photograph of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in 1964. As far as I recollect, it was the first time Swami had entered my life.

While I was working in Agra in 1968, we used to attend Bhajans of Swami wherever they were held. In the house of a Malayali family, many miracles used to take place. Vibhuti,

Kumkum and sugar candy used to come from Swami's photograph. Once some oil also came. We, too, went and saw these things... In 1969, it literally rained candy sugar like hailstones.

We also held Bhajans in our house. Once a little quantity of vibhuti came from a photograph of Swami in our house. We arranged a separate Mandir for Swami in our house, and my wife used to decorate it with colour papers -with devotion. She placed in it photographs of other gods and goddesses, also.

One day, I returned from the office and placed the bundle of currency notes I received that day as my salary before Swami's photograph in the Mandir. My wife was not in the house, and as it was time for the evening Haarati, our nine-year-old son was enthusiastic to perform it. I agreed, but when he was giving Haarati, the colour paper-decoration in the Mandir caught fire by his inadvertence. I rushed to remove the photographs of gods, etc. and save them from being gutted.

In my hurry to remove them, my mind did not think of the salary bundle lying there. Just at that moment, one of the colour paper garlands fell down burning on the bundle. The garland burned on either side, but not on the top portion of the bundle of notes. By Swami's Grace, my salary was untouched by the Fire-god. We felt it very strange that the bundle of currency notes did not catch fire at all when a burning paper garland fell on it! Om Sai Ram.

Love... Love... Love... Love, as long as life lasts. For Myself, I can say I shower more blessings on those who decry or defame Me than those who worship and adore Me. For those who spread falsehoods about Me derive joy therefrom; I am happy that I am the cause for their exultation and joy. You too must accept this and be very happy when someone derives joy by defaming you. Do not respond by defaming that person, for then the chain of hatred will bind both, and drag both down. Life will become a tragedy. Conquer anger by means of fortitude; conquer hatred by love. Do not feed anger with retaliation; do not feed hatred with fury. - BABA.

Under Swami's Protection

In Karnataka, in 2007, Sai devotee, Smt. Kamala, left office to return home alone. She always carried a photo of Swami's Hiranyagrabha Lingam with her so she wasn't afraid. She decided to take a short-cut, that would take her through a small alley. She had never been through that alley before and did not know that it had a dead end!

When she started walking, two rough-looking men started following her. She started running and was chased, 'till she came up to a dead end wall. She was cornered and did not know what to do. When the men came near her she clutched Swami's photo in her purse and as the purse fell, Swami's photo with the Lingam fell out. Suddenly the two men stared at the photo and then at her, they turned and started running, but were cornered as a few

people stopped them and a police car arrived, to lead them away.

A few hours later, Ms. Kamala was asked to come and give a statement to the police at the station. They asked her to show them, "the photo of the man with the orange robe", that she carried in her purse. The officer asked who that person was and the girl replied that He was her God and everything. They were surprised to hear that He lived so far away, because the two people who attacked her told the police that they saw "some man with an orange robe standing next to her!"

Swami takes care of everyone at all times. This is just an example of Swami's Divine Grace.

The ultimate purpose of all spiritual exercises is to realise the love of the Divine. To foster love is the purpose of all spiritual endeavour. Under no circumstances should love be given-up or ignored. Where there is love, there can be no hatred, grief or want. See that your love for God does not fluctuate according to whether your wishes are fulfilled or not. Love of God alone can confer enduring bliss. There is nothing greater than love in this world. Everything has a price. The price to be paid for everlasting happiness is Divine Love. - BABA.

Serve Man as God

Sathya Sai Baba says:

"You arrange dinner parties and picnic, where members are treated

to costly feasts, more as part of social convention, than to appease hunger. This is sheer exhibitionism, and display.

Instead... "I would ask you to feed some hungry people with the delicious dishes, people who have never had in their lives the joy of having eaten a full meal, not to speak of a rich meal.

"Serve man as God. Give food to the hungry, food that is the gift of Goddess Nature.

"Give it with love, and humility, give it sweetened with the name of the Lord."

"You get very angry against someone and slap them. But think for a moment; it is a great sin to hurt others. In the process, you are hurting not your enemy but God, verily! All are divine. Hence, never hurt anyone. It is natural to help those who help you, but you should be able to help even those who harm you".

"There is nothing great in helping those who have helped you. The noble ones are those who help even those who have harmed them".

"It is only Sai in this world who helps even those who try to harm Him, ignoring their faults. I never mind the harm done to Me by others. We must always be calm, serene, and peaceful under all circumstances. If only you maintain the quality of peace, you can achieve anything in life. Wherever you see in the outside world, it is only pieces and pieces! Do not hurt the feelings of others, come what may". -BABA.

The Lord is always with us!

An awe-inspiring story came to mind, recently, relating to the son of the Pres. of the Sathya Sai Organisation, Gujarat, who was working as an engineer in China.

Coming from a Sai background, he wanted to do Narajana Seva in an orphanage, and approached the warden of the orphanage to do the service on a Sunday, introducing Swami as his mentor and guide, under whose inspiration the service was undertaken.

Upon showing the warden a photo of Swami, the warden showed no surprise, merely mentioning that the same 'gentleman' in the picture, had come to the orphanage a week previously, offering to send food to the inmates!

Now every household in this small village in China has a picture of Swami, Whom they worship as 'The Big Chi' -The Supreme Lord, although they have never heard of Sathya Sai Baba!

Another interesting incident, worth relating, was an episode which occurred during the inception of the Super Speciality Hospital. Eighteen containers of highly fragile, sensitive, hi-tech equipment; heart/lung machines and others, for the Cath Lab. of the new hospital. These were valued at hundreds-of-thousands of rupees and were being transported, from abroad, to Parthi, over very rough road conditions. As they were not insured for the harsh transportation because of the enormous cost, Swami was

approached for His opinion, "When life itself is not sure, why to insure?"

The engineer from Phillips had little hope that the medical items would arrive without damage, as never before were such items transported without damage...

Upon opening the containers they discovered not a single piece was broken, as willed by Swami!

Dr. Safaya - whom the engineers used to address as 'sir', now received 'Sai Ram' from the engineers, since this almost impossible 'miracle' happened!

Note that everyone, from the beggar to the billionaire, is prompted by the urge to achieve Aanandha, supreme bliss, based on inner peace, unaffected by ups and downs. Every activity, however elementary or earthshaking, is subservient to this ideal.

This bliss divine is not manufactured by any company, nor available in any shop. It is not something that can be earned from outside, and added to the sum of one's possessions. It has to sprout and grow from within, and fostered and treasured within.

-BABA.

Hundreds of Thousands of Angels

It was on the occasion, in 1996, when in the middle of His Christmas discourse, Swami waved His hand and materialised a small gold-covered book - a miniature bible - to

the surprise of the 50,000 people present.

R.D.Awle recalls the occasion and the following incident.

"That night, at around 9 o'clock, I heard that Baba had announced earlier that angels would be flying above the ashram that evening. I looked into the sky, but didn't see anything unusual, so guessed I'd missed the show. However, a couple of nights later, two friends came running up to me on the street and said, 'Ram Das, the angels are back! Come on, you've got to see them!' So I followed them up to a rooftop, away from the lights of the ashram, lay down and looked up..."

"In the sky above us was one of the most astonishing sights in what seemed to be an acstatic dance of joy! They looked a little like shooting stars - yet they were closer to the Earth, and moving not in straight lines (as asteroids, or any similar phenomena would be) but in curves and curlicues. Considering Baba's earlier announcement, I didn't see any reason to doubt that these glowing beings were indeed angels, celestial helpers in His world mission: no other phenomena I knew of could explain the sight. Sometimes two would pair up for a while as they zipped about, and they seemed to be pouring forth from some invisible gate above the ashram, where I guessed they had maybe just received Baba's darshan and instructions for their work..."

"The event had an unquestionably supernatural exuberance above it that left all three of us gasping in amazement. It was probably the most inspiring sight I've ever

witnessed, ringing out more clearly than a thousand manifested rings the Divine identity of Sathya Sai Baba."

"Why would so many angels congregate in such an extraordinary way, other than to have the darshan of God?"

'Sai Divine Inspiration'

Those who have hurt you in the past, will live in the present in fear and will surely meet with the same pain, at one point in their future. Pain inflicted must be bourne - that is the law of karma - the balance of nature.

Why Does God Incarnate?

Swami stated in response to this question;

"To elevate man to the level of Supreme Consciousness, God has to incarnate as man. God has to speak to man in his own style and language. He has to teach mankind the methods that it can adopt and practice. Birds and beasts need no Divine incarnation to guide them for they have no inclination to stray away from their respective Dharmas. Man alone forgets the goal of life."

"The essential quality of an Avatar is to teach you to make good and proper use of your thought, word and deed. Depending on the conditions and the environment in the country, the Avatar will teach and show the right use of the Divine faculties gifted to man."

"In this Kali Age, the wicked have to be reformed and reconstructed

through Love and Compassion. That is why this Avatar has come with the Message of Love."

"My objective is to establish unity in mankind, to reveal the aspect of the Divinity latent in man, and that God must be the only goal in life. It is also My duty to make you realise the kind of relationship that should exist between fellow human beings."

"There is considerable change in human outlook that I have to bring about. No one can stop Me or deter Me from fulfilling these tasks for which I have come, namely the establishment of the one unchanging Truth. In this task, you have a part to play."

"You must take a path by which you can see deep in My heart, and experience the various Divine aspects of Mine. You must understand the all-knowing power in Me. Do not be led away by people who always talk of having got a locket or a watch or a ring from Me. These things have no deep meaning."

Swami is Love, in fact, Pure Love. No surprise in that since God is Love and Love is God. Swami adds that all Incarnations are embodiments of Pure Love, as indeed man also is. He says:

"Divine Love is associated with Immortality. It is to teach mankind the truth about this Divine Love that Love itself incarnates on earth in human form."

When you take food, all the evils are eliminated if you offer the first morsel to God. The food then becomes Prasad of the Lord

bestowed on man. Prasad is the very embodiment of elixir. It may not be possible to insist that the vessel be pure, that the man who cooks the food be pure and that the food be pure, but if you offer the first morsel to God, it becomes utterly pure. - BABA. ('72)

Miracles in Panama

Dani Nandwani was the first visitor from Panama, to visit P.N., back in 1962. He was only 19 years old at the time, but he was so taken by Swami that he became a devotee for life. Since then his family has basked under the Divine Love and protective umbrella of Lord Sai.

In the year 2000 the Nandwani family was conferred a great blessing, but only after a huge test by Swami! Dani's son, Ashok, the president of a large chain of stores in a booming commercial centre, was kidnapped.

A relative, who was staying at P.N. at the time, conveyed the incident in a message to Swami, Who replied, "My angels are taking care of him. Don't worry, he is with me and after seven days I will return him, but he needs lots of prayers from everybody, so tell everyone to pray for him." The relative asked, why seven days? Swami replied, "God took one week to make the world - I promise one week. You don't have faith, and Panama is not praying enough."

Back home, many people chanted the Gayatri Mantra daily. Mr. Nandwani was worried about his son's condition, his health, what he was eating, and on the 4th day, a Sai

devotee heard a voice during meditation, say, "I have already fed him."

On the seventh day the relative staying in P.N. again got an interview in which he told Swami that there was no news yet, and Swami replied, "Where is your faith? He will be back soon." At the same time Mr. Nandwani got a 'phone call from the police informing him that his son had been found and was safe, and was taken to hospital for a checkup.

He had, apparently, escaped from his abductors and spent seven days lost in the jungle avoiding wild animals and crocodiles until he found his way back to civilisation!

Swami's words proved correct!

Another incident with a Panamanian connection, was equally fortuitous. A Sai devotee was driving her car which was full of ladies who had been doing Seva at Mother Teresa's old people's home in Colon City, Panama. They used to go there every Thursday with food for everyone. This home was close to the Free Zone, of Panama Canal, so there was lots of contained traffic.

The lady-driver failed to halt at a stop sign and a huge container was approaching down on their car. They all screamed 'Sai Ram'. The only way to avoid the accident was to accelerate the car, but in her nervousness she hit the break! But somehow the car accelerated, and an accident was avoided!

The lady noted the time, and when they arrived home their maid told them that Swami's picture fell off the wall at exactly 12:20 PM, just the time that they had earlier noted

down, and furthermore when she picked it up, she said Swami winked at her from the picture!!

The maid and some of the ladies were not devotees of Swami, but this miracle of His opened a new dimension in their lives!

Do not get disheartened. Utter the name of the Lord, dwelling on the glory and the grace; that is equally effective. No one particular name is necessary; all names denote only the one. The steadiness, the faith, the love that you cultivate in the heart and express through your words, deeds and thoughts are the essential requisites for earning the grace of God. - BABA.

Swami's Photo Smiled

I was in the 9th grade when my mother started believing in Swami. At that time, my mother had contracted some kind of eye infection and had lost nearly 70% of her vision in the left eye.

I was born an atheist, but a series of incidents in my life turned me to the person I am now - a lover of God.

My mother later told us that during the period of illness, whichever hospital or doctor or even pharmacist she visited, it had a picture of Swami and from every picture Swami appeared to beckon her.

He kept calling her to Him!

I was in the 11th grade and had gotten up early in the morning to prepare for my final exams. My

mother had been to Puttaparthi only a few days before and as a result our house was full of Swami's photos. There was this one photo on the wall in the dining hall, which bothered me every time I had to pass by it. In it Swami appeared to be staring angrily, unlike the other photos in my house in which He was all smiles.

That morning things changed - changed for ever. As usual when I passed by the photo, I gave my routine smile to Swami, but this time, the angry-looking Swami, smiled back at me! Now these are only miracles that you typically read about in books, but here I was, standing in front of a photo and looking at the man in the photo smiling back at me!

Was I hallucinating? I immediately posed Swami a challenge. I told Him that if what I had seen was true and not some figment of my imagination, then He needs to come up with a miracle that all of us could see. The very next day, amritham, or divine nectar came from that particular photo of Swami, and as I had wanted, all of us could see it!

Swami's mission is divine and will go on with or without us. That means, it is only up to us to seek and get a role from this divine director, however small it may be and play it to perfection, or rather, pray that He makes us play it perfectly. To whom much is given, much is expected.

An alumni of the Sri Sathya Sai University, Anantapur Campus, Ms. Srividhya Sivakumar graduated with a degree in Physics in 2002. She is a journalist by profession.

If you explore the methods of removing suffering, happiness naturally and automatically dawns. If you investigate the reason for misery, you will know that ignorance is the cause of all misery. What is responsible for ignorance? It is the ego. What is the ego? It is attachment.

What is attachment? It is the body, consciousness. So, misery occurs due to attachment to the body...Misery can be removed only by prayer and by following the spiritual path. - BABA.

Swami & Prof. Anil Kumar on Generation Gap

A.K.: Swami! Modern youth, in the name of the generation gap, are not prepared to pay heed to their elders. Advise and give us Your message.

Swami: This is meaningless. What are the changes you notice in the name of the generation gap? The sun rises only in the east and never in the west. There is no change in the laws of nature. Don't you feed the same stomach every day?

Don't you wash the same face every day? Don't you clean the same utensils every day? Don't you wear the same clothes? So, all important things need to be done time and again. In the name of the generation gap you should not neglect doing things that need to be repeated.

You shouldn't turn a deaf ear to the advice of your elders branding them as senile, old hags. No. They are persons with rich experience. They are your well wishers. You must listen to them, obey and follow their

instructions. The modern generation is not prepared to listen to the elders. It is foolishness and utter ignorance to brush aside all that the elders say. It amounts to pride and egotism. You will ultimately ruin yourself if you don't follow the valuable advice of elders.

Being Alert to the Needs of Others

Prof. Anil Kumar related a wonderful incident, in Sept. 2002, of Swami's care and compassion on the occasion of serving food to the needy, to start Narayana Seva.

While walking amongst the poor, He suddenly stopped, and noticed one lady who was carrying a small child in her arms. Turning to one Seva Dal boy, He asked, "We are serving food to these people; how about the child?"

The boy asked, "Swami what should I do?"

"Bring a glass of milk for this child."

The Seva Dal boy went, and returned with a glass of milk. In the meantime Swami was moving along the lines, serving food. He stopped and shouted, "Did you give milk to that child?"

The boy replied, "Yes, Swami!"

Swami went all the way back to where the lady and her child sat, and touched the glass. "It is very, very hot. How do you expect the child to drink the milk? No, bring another glass."

Swami started cooling the milk, pouring the milk, repeatedly from glass to glass. He made it cool

enough to offer the milk to the child and only then did He leave.

This shows the personal care He takes and the spirit that He wants us to maintain while doing seva. Seva, or service, is not a routine; it is not mechanical, no! It is not a schedule. We have to do it wholeheartedly.

When I give anyone Vibhuti or any other thing, I am giving a part of Me to them and to everyone, so that you use My Qualities for your good. Do not think that Swami simply is giving Prasadam or other things. Everything that Swami does have a meaning and a purpose. -BABA.

The Potency of Vibhuti

Mr. Patterson was a very successful Canadian businessman, returning home to New York via London. He had travel all over the world in connection to his business. It was on a visit to India, that he met Dr. Bala Krishna, son of Prof. Bhagavantham. Dr. Krishna told him about Swami and His divine powers, His love and compassion.

Patterson asked Dr. Krishna for something to remind him constantly of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and he was presented with a small photo of Swami and some Vibhuti. "Ashes? Do you give me ashes to remind me of this great Yogi?" Dr. Krishna gently explained, "These are no ordinary ashes. It is divine Vibhuti. It is priceless, invaluable. If you get into some serious trouble and you think that Swami's compassion alone can save you, put a little in your mouth and pray to Him."

During his return journey to New York he was seated amongst women and children, and there was terrible disturbance and noise, and he was very uncomfortable. As the plane neared London, he suddenly remember the packet of Vibhuti he had been given. He placed the holy ash on his tongue and earnestly prayed to Swami, asking Him to provide a more comfortable seat at least for his onward journey from London to New York.

Upon landing at London, he was surprised to hear his name on the public address system, asking him to go to the airline office immediately, and on arrival he was told that he was allotted a seat in First Class, for the remainder of his journey to New York. He was immensely pleased and offered to pay the extra cost, only to be told, to his utter surprise, that the additional fare had already been paid on his behalf.

Could it be, he thought, that consuming a little of the Vibhuti and remembering Swami's Name, that he received Swami's grace, thousands of miles away and had his wish fulfilled?

He was moved by Swami's mercy and love, and continued to treasure his little packet of Vibhuti!

The path of Prema along which I shall take you, that is why I offer My visiting card to every one of you when you come to Me. I know your name, your degrees, your profession, your status and your history. But you do not know mine. I have no need to know all about you from a perusal of your cards; but I want you to know

something of My Glory; and so I give you a glimpse of it, as a Mahima. But I also give you enough of My Prema so that you can mix a little of it with whatever you do or feel or think and make it sweet and palatable. - BABA.

Swami Controls the Elements

In the summer of 1965, I was in Bangalore to visit a friend. During an informal conversation one morning, my host asked me whether I would like to see Sri Sathya Sai, Who was to address a meeting the same evening.

I had heard and read of Sri Sathya Sai in the press, but have never seen Him before. My immediate response was somewhat casual and uncertain. However, on second thoughts, I felt that I should attend the meeting, with my wife Sarla.

It was a mammoth gathering. We sat in a remote corner, and I was swayed by a nameless feeling, a strange inquisitiveness, or curiosity, as though I was adventuring into the unknown. Then suddenly, the sky became rather dark with thick clouds fast gathering overhead. The large crowd became visably restless, as people feared an impending rain. We ourselves were in a quandary and my host hastened to take us back to the car.

Just then, we saw Sri Sathya Sai raising His hand and saying aloud to the crowd, in the local South Indian language, which I could not grasp. My friend said that He was asking the crowd to sit down and that He was assuring them that it would not rain. As He said this, we saw that the rain-clouds started disappearing and

the gathering darkness was giving way to bright sunshine.

I remained spell-bound. I could not believe that one could disperse moisture-laden heavy clouds by a mere wave of His Hand. And yet, our eyes were a witness to this strange phenomenon, the like of which I had read only in Puranic stories.

(From, "Sixteen Spiritual Summers" by Shri. Indulal Shah)

God exists in everyone and therefore to say that God does not exist is to show one's own lame hand and say that he himself does not exist. To say that God does not exist is as ridiculous as saying that he has been born to a barren woman. To argue that there is no God is as bad as insisting that the one that is arguing cannot speak. All these are meaningless words intending to make up meaningless arguments. - BABA. '74

"I Will Not Lie Anymore, No More..."

"Anthony came from the wrong side of the society, with a blurred backdrop painted by poverty and social disadvantages of being part of a society with soaring ambitions, little Anthony was led to the wrong track practising small lies. However, this wrong run was not to last long as God wanted to write a fresh chapter in little Anthony's life with His magic wand of 'Truth'..." *Read on an inspiring episode from the life of a little Bal Vikas child, from Bal Vikas Group, Faenza, Italy, published in Sanathana Sarathi, July 1994.*

A new student joined the Bal Vikas class. His name was Anthony. He was 13 years old. He probably came to Swami just in time. Anthony was coming from the wrong side of society. It was the same story: the father had left the family, the mother did not have much resources and he also had other small brothers. It was not easy to be poor and disadvantaged in a welfare nation.

So Anthony found a way to survive: telling lies. He was saying that his mother owned a good flower shop and that his father was a fireman. These were small lies, they were his dreams. He wanted to be a fireman when he had grown up. He wanted very badly to be respected, loved, to enjoy all the big gifts that life is giving when you walk in Dharma.

As no one taught Anthony how to get these gifts, he imagined he had them. One day there was a fire in the classroom. Some kid set fire to the rubbish. The teacher called him, 'Anthony, as you know everything about the fire brigade, how does the fire extinguisher work?' Now everyone was looking at the small boy wearing dresses not very clean.

Anthony felt inside a big determination. With a punch he broke the glass, took out the extinguisher and in two seconds he extinguished the fire.

This little success helped Anthony to change his life. He got a little more confidence in himself, so the older kids loved him more. One of his friends was Francis.

One day Francis took Anthony to the Bal Vikas class and you can imagine what happened. Anthony asked:

'Who is that man dressed in orange, with all that hair?'

Francis: 'He is Sathya Sai!' 'What does that mean?' Anthony asked.

'Truth', replied Francis.

The two boys looked at each other in their eyes. One minute of silence followed and then Anthony said: 'I don't want to lie anymore, I will not lie anymore, no more.'

When Anthony found the love of our Beloved Master, then he found himself!

The Lord will manifest where and when you yearn for Him; if you yearn that He should come before you in flesh and blood, He will respond. He is ever ready to respond; only, you are not ready to invite or welcome or receive Him into your heart. The baby that has been fed on milk may start crying; do not be worried. It is very helpful for digestion. Cry, so that you can digest the joys of knowing God; cry and shed tears of joy. -BABA.

'Seeking Divinity' by Dr. Hislop - Feb. 4th 1986

My wife and I have a home in Ensenada district in Mexico. We have lived there quite a few years now. A chap I know there, recently put up a television dish in his yard and said he had entertainment twenty-four hours a day. So he sits in front of his TV and he is very happy.

He limits himself to three cans of beer a day and to one litre of vodka a

week. From early morning until late, he sits watching that TV. He gets stations from all over the world with his long-range antenna.

You know, from one point, we might say he is not really a sensible man. It is not a very constructive way to use one's life. But, you know, everything really goes circle. Things go up to their limit and then they come back - and life does that too. It goes out into manifestation and experiences everything that manifestation can bring, and then slowly and gradually it comes back from whence it came. Back home again, back to the centre.

Swami says, in fact that this cycle of progressive evolution, where eternal, individual consciousness takes itself as an object is the moment when duality begins. With duality there is creation - endless creation. Swami says that creation is endless, and that the first expansion itself of indivisible consciousness into duality that is taking itself as an object, manifest as granite, as a rock. Then He says that rock dies and is reborn as a tree. After all that experience, tree dies and reborn as an animal. After that long, long experience, animal promotes itself to the status of human being.

Beyond that, there are a total of seven steps on the journey out into manifestation, out into multiplicity, and then back into heart, into unity. There is rock, vegetable, animal, human, superhuman, cosmic and the Divine.

Proselytising people and urging them to take up a spiritual life, is only effective if they are ripe for it.

Then you do, perhaps, the greatest good deed that is possible to do for anybody. But, in general, the world is not ready for that - will never be ready for it, because there is a constant coming into manifestation of life as it advances through this progressive evolution.

(Our friend in Mexico is still engaged in that outward flow of life into manifestation. So, what is the harm? You know it can last for millions and millions of years and millions and millions of incarnations. All perfectly legitimate. There really is no reason for anyone to take up spiritual life and try to find the central truth about things, until he feels in himself that impulse to do it.)

Come to Me with empty hands; I shall fill your hands with gifts and grace. If your hands are full, what am I to fill them with? - BABA.

Notice: I have, recently, received two resignations from the Chairpersons of Munster and Ulster, for personal reasons. While these resignations are regrettable, I accept fully their needs to step-down, but will continue to remain part of the Organisation. These gaps now remain to be filled and I would welcome your advice and input, at this time. This is something that Committee Members, or others indeed, may wish to discuss and come up, perhaps, with suggestions for names of those who could fill these positions.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. **Ed.**

To talk of the Vibhuti that I give or to talk of things that I materialise and the miracles I perform, is not correct. Sometimes, I feel like laughing at the ignorance of people when they attach such importance to My miracles. People talk only of such things and forget the much bigger aspect in Me. The most sacred quality in Me is Prema. This Prema is immeasurable. I am Love, Love and Love. I am always Love! Love is anything but people do not understand Love. - BABA.

Swami said...

"Every Avatar is an amazing phenomenon. Not to recognise the Avatar is equally a matter for amazement. Even more astonishing is the incapacity to experience the presence of the Avatar. Most astonishing of all is to be in the presence of the Lord and feel miserable. To be in the proximity of the Avatar, to move about with the Avatar, to sing and sport with the Avatar and yet fail to understand the truth of the Avatar is indeed a remarkable phenomenon! When the Avatar principle is understood, you experience real bliss."

Swami concludes...

"There is no desire in Sai. Where is the space for desire in Sai? Everything is already Mine! Sai does not think. My will is instantly realised. Whatever it may be, it immediately appears. I readily give you what you want, so that you may want what I have come to give."

The Lord will manifest where and when you yearn for Him. If you yearn that He should come before you in flesh and blood, He will respond. He is ever ready to respond, only you are not ready to invite or welcome or receive Him into your heart. The baby that has been fed on milk may start crying, do not be worried. It is very helpful for digestion. Cry, so that you can digest the joy of knowing God. Cry and shed tears of joy.
- BABA (1962)
